

BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

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Rhyming Phrases 压韵短语

Diarmuid: Hello everybody and welcome to another Question and Answer of the Week. I'm Diarmuid.

Feifei: 大家好，我是冯菲菲。在《你问我答》节目中，我们回答大家提出的关于英语语言学习方面的问题。

Diarmuid: So what have we got today then Feifei?

Feifei: Today's question comes from Alice in Fujian, China. Her question is about some phrases in English that rhyme.

Diarmuid: Rhyming phrases.

Feifei: 压韵短语。

Diarmuid: Let's hear from Alice:

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Hello, I'm Alice from Fujian, China. Could you tell me why English people say 'see you later, alligator!' or 'in a while, crocodile'? Are there any other sentences like that in English? Thank you.

Feifei: Well those were interesting phrases, weren't they?

Diarmuid: Indeed they were. Let's repeat them for the listeners. See you later alligator.

Feifei: See you later alligator.

Diarmuid: In a while crocodile.

Feifei: In a while crocodile. So what do these expressions mean Diarmuid?

Diarmuid: Well, they are both simply alternative ways of saying goodbye to someone.

Feifei: But why do they say alligator 短吻鳄 and crocodile 鳄鱼? These are the names for animals.

Diarmuid: Exactly. But the important thing about these words is not their meaning but their sound – the words rhyme with the beginning of the phrase.

Feifei: Rhyme 压韵。 也就是说几个单词的发音连在一起，很压韵。

Diarmuid: That's right. Later rhymes with alligator and while rhymes with crocodile.

Feifei: 对于压韵短语来说，意思不重要，只要说起来上口、压韵就行。So why do English speakers use these kind of rhyming phrases?

Diarmuid: Really they are just for fun. It would usually be young people or children who would use these kinds of rhymes.

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Feifei: Alice 想知道英语里有没有更多的压韵短语。Are there many more rhyming expressions in English?

Diarmuid: Absolutely. We learn lots of these kinds of phrases in childhood. Let's hear some examples:

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*Easy-peasy lemon squeezy
What's the plan, Stan?
What's up, buttercup?*

Feifei: Well, I'm not sure what those phrases mean. Shall we go through them together?

Diarmuid: Good idea. Let's do the first one again. Easy-peasy lemon squeezy.

Feifei: Easy-peasy lemon squeezy.

Diarmuid: That's it. Any idea what it means?

Feifei: Does it mean easy or simple?

Diarmuid: Exactly. Easy-peasy lemon squeezy means very easy.

Feifei: What about the next one? What's the plan, Stan? What is this Stan word?

Diarmuid: Stan is a boy's name. It's short for Stanley. So the phrase what's the plan, Stan is just a way of asking 'what are we going to do?'

Feifei: I see. So what's the plan, Stan?

Diarmuid: The plan is to look at another rhyming expression. What's up, buttercup?

Feifei: What's up, buttercup? Buttercup 是毛茛，一种花；what's up 的意思就是你好，怎样样。



Diarmuid: So what does the phrase mean?

Feifei: Is it just a way to ask somebody what's happening?

Diarmuid: That's right Feifei. That was easy, wasn't it?

Feifei: Easy-peasy lemon squeezy!

Diarmuid: Ok. We've looked at some rhyming phrases.

Feifei: 下面我们来一起学习一些压韵短语。注意这些压韵短语中使用了原词的某个部分，从而使其听起来很压韵。

Diarmuid: Yes, the following words are examples of how we play with our language to create informal new words and meanings.

Feifei: Let's hear some examples:

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chick flick
lovey-dovey
hob-nob
itty-bitty
okey-dokey

Diarmuid: Ok let's start with the first example. Chick-flick.

Feifei: I know that one. 在《地道英语》里我们曾经介绍过这个词 chick flick. Chick is another word for a girl and flick is another word for a film.

Diarmuid: So a chick-flick is?

Feifei: A film for girls.

Diarmuid: Well done. Now what about the next word?

Feifei: Lovey-dovey.

Diarmuid: Lovey-dovey.

Feifei: It has the word love in it so something to do with love?

Diarmuid: Yes. Lovey-dovey means acting in a very loving way with your partner.

Feifei: Lovey-dovey 卿卿我我，情意绵绵。

Diarmuid: Next one: hob-nob. Any ideas what that might mean?

Feifei: No clue, I'm afraid. What does it mean?

Diarmuid: I'll just tell you this one – hob-nob means to chat with somebody.

Feifei: Hob-nob 聊天。What about the next one? Itty-bitty.

Diarmuid: Here's a clue. Itty-bitty has the same meaning as teeny-weeny.

Feifei: Hmm, teeny-weeny. 这也是一个压韵短语。It sounds a bit like tiny meaning very small. Am I right?

Diarmuid: Well done Feifei. Both itty-bitty and teeny-weeny mean very small.

Feifei: And the last one – okey-dokey. That's an easy one.

Diarmuid: You're right there Feifei. Okey-dokey just means ok.

Feifei: Okey-dokey. Ok.

Diarmuid: That's all we have time for today folks.

Feifei: 如果你在英语学习中遇到任何难题，都可以发邮件到 questions.elt@bbc.co.uk 我们会在节目中回答你的问题。

Diarmuid: That's www.bbcukchina.com. We need to say goodbye now.

Feifei: Okey-dokey. Goodbye everyone. See you later alligator.

Diarmuid: In a while crocodile. Bye all!